

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

There had been, in the past, the idea that there should be balance in public programming; this balance has long been forgotten. Instead, corporations use the airwaves as if they were their own.

In fact, Sinclair uses the PUBLIC airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest.

It is the responsibility of the FCC to see that the PUBLIC is served. Sinclair, by controlling a large number of stations and hence the airwaves, is also controlling our democratic debate.

There is little sense of the needs of the local community with such conglomeration. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.